

IN THE CLAIMS:

MARKED-UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED CLAIMS:

1. (original) A method for aligning and moving a test specimen (7) such as, for instance, tablets, pills, lozenges or tabs, which are cambered or rounded on at least one of their main surfaces and are thus able to execute rocking oscillations starting from a resting position, in order to carry out another process step such as a hardness test, involving the test specimen (7), making use of two jaws (2, 3, 21) arranged opposite from each other and movably relative to each other, whereby the movable pressing jaw (2) pushes the test specimen (7) forward on a guide segment (6, 34) towards the stationary counter-jaw (3, 21) until the test specimen (7) makes mechanical contact with the counter-jaw (3, 21), so as to initiate the further process step involving the test specimen (7), **characterized in that,** while carrying along the test specimen (7), the advancing movement of

the movable pressing jaw (2) in the direction of the stationary counter-jaw (3, 21) is continuously interrupted and the pressing jaw (2) retreats and advances, whereby the advancing and retreating movement of the pressing jaw (2) is small relative to its total advancing distance with respect to the counter jaw (3, 21), but all in all, the pressing jaw (2) moves towards the counter-jaw (3, 21) while each time carrying along the test specimen (7) by the small advancing distance and releasing the test specimen by retreating, so that the test specimen oscillates back into its resting position and then the pressing jaw (2) starts up again to push in the direction of the counter-jaw (3, 21) until the test specimen (7) has reached the counter jaw (3, 21)

or

the stationary jaw (3, 21) and/or the guide segment (6, 34) are made to oscillate during the advancing movement of the movable pressing jaw (2) in the direction of the stationary jaw (3, 21), said oscillations acting on the test specimen (7) so that, during the advancing movement of the pressing jaw (2), the test specimen (7) executes a rocking and/or

vibrating oscillation that continuously causes the test specimen (7) to oscillate back into the resting position or allows it to oscillate around said resting position until the test specimen (7) has reached the counter-jaw (3, 21) and the oscillation of the test specimen (7) is stopped by the stationary counter-jaw (3, 21).

2. (original) The method according to Claim 1, **characterized in that**, the forward and backward movement of the movable pressing jaw (2) in the direction of the stationary counter jaw (3, 21) is carried out until the test specimen (7) is just touching the stationary counter-jaw (3, 21).
3. (presently amended) The method according to Claim 1 [[or 2]], **characterized in that**, the movable pressing jaw (2) pushes the test specimen (7) along in front of it while, if applicable, tilting the test specimen (7) until the latter reaches the stationary counter-jaw (3, 21), after which the movable pressing jaw (2) retreats until the test specimen (7) has oscillated into its resting position, and subsequently the pressing jaw (2) moves once again in the direction of the stationary counter-jaw (3, 21) in order to initiate

the hardness test.

4. (presently amended) The method according to ~~one of the preceding~~
claims Claim 1,

characterized in that the docking of the test specimen (7) at the
stationary counter-jaw (3, 21) is monitored by means of a video camera
(35) that emits a signal at the time of the docking which serves to
control the electric motor (15) that drives the movable pressing jaw (2).

5. (original) The method according to Claim 1, **characterized in that**,
during its advancing movement in the direction of the stationary counter
jaw (3, 21), the movable pressing jaw (2) executes vibrations in the
direction of its longitudinal axis (36) back and forth relative to the
counter jaw (3, 21), said vibrations being superimposed upon the
advancing movement of the pressing jaw (2).

6. (original) A device for aligning and moving a test specimen (7) such as,
for instance, tablets, pills, lozenges or tabs, which are cambered or rounded

on at least one of their main surfaces and are thus able to execute rocking oscillations starting from a resting position, in order to carry out another process step such as a hardness test, involving the test specimen (7), with two jaws (2, 3, 21) arranged opposite from each other and movably relative to each other, whereby the movable pressing jaw (2) pushes the test specimen (7) forward on a guide segment (6, 34) towards the stationary counter-jaw (3, 21) until the test specimen (7) makes mechanical contact with the counter jaw (3, 21), so as to initiate the further process step involving the test specimen (7), **characterized in that,**

the pressing jaw (2), with a continuous interruption of its advancing movement, can be moved back and forth along small advancing and retreating distances relative to its total advancing distance with respect to the counter-jaw (3, 21), but all in all, it is able to move towards the counter jaw (3, 21) while carrying along the test specimen (7) by the small advancing distance and releasing the test specimen by retreating, until the test specimen (7) has reached the counter-jaw (3, 21)

or

the stationary jaw (3, 21) and/or the guide segment (6, 34) can be made to oscillate around a resting position during the advancing movement of

the movable pressing jaw (2) in the direction of the stationary jaw (3,21) by means of an oscillation generator (24, 27), said oscillations acting on the test specimen (7) so that, during the advancing movement of the test specimen (7), it is able to execute a rocking and/or vibrating oscillation.

7. (original) The device according to Claim 6, **characterized in that**, the movable pressing jaw (2) as well as a load cell (8) attached to it to create a hardness tester are arranged on a carriage (10) that can be moved on a stationary guide rail (9) and that can be moved back and forth by means of an electric stepping motor (5) as well as by a drive gear (12, 13, 14) by

small advancing and retreating distances relative to its total advancing distance with respect to the counter-jaw (3, 21).

8. (original) The device according to Claim 7, **characterized in that**, the drive gear is a toothed gear (12, 13) and consists of two toothed wheels (12, 13) which are connected to each other via a toothed segment (14).
9. (original) The device according to Claim 6, **characterized in that**, the oscillation generator for generating a vibration of the stationary counter-jaw (3, 21) and/or of the guide segment (6, 34) of the test specimen (7) is a vibrator (24, 27) that has a plunger (30) that engages stationary counter-jaw (3, 21) and/or the guide segment (6, 34).
10. (original) The device according to Claim 9, **characterized in that**, the vibrator (24, 27) has an electromagnet (28) as well as a pull-back spring (29).
11. (presently amended) The device according to ~~one of Claims 7 to 10~~ Claim 7, **characterized**

in that, above the stationary counter-jaw (3, 21), there is a video camera (35) for monitoring the docking of the test specimen (7) at the stationary counter jaw (3, 21), said camera generating an electric signal that serves to influence the electric motor (15).

12. (original) A device for aligning and moving a test specimen (7) such as, for instance, tablets, pills, lozenges or tabs, which are cambered or rounded on at least one of their main surfaces and are thus able to execute rocking oscillations starting from a resting position, in order to carry out another process step such as a hardness test or a pushing over procedure, involving the test specimen (7), having a movable pushing jaw (2) for moving the test specimen (7) on a guide segment (6, 34) so as to initiate the further process step involving the test specimen (7), **characterized in that,**

the pushing jaw (2), with a continuous interruption of its advancing movement, can be moved back and forth along small advancing and retreating distances relative to its total advancing distance, but all in all, while each time carrying along the test specimen (7) on the guide segment (6, 34) by the small advancing distance and releasing the test specimen by retreating, can be moved until the test specimen (7) has

reached the desired place (3, 21), or in that the guide segment (6, 34) can be made to oscillate around a resting position during the advancing movement of the movable pushing jaw (2) by means of an oscillation generator (24, 27), said oscillations acting on the test specimen (7) so that the test specimen (7) is also able to execute a rocking and/or vibrating oscillation during the advancing movement of the movable pressing jaw (2).